



Monochrome Factor

空廻カイリ

Monochrome Factor

Koh





C O N T E N T S

#020:	Shiki	3
#021:	Buildup	37
#022:	Out of Control	63
#023:	Memories	89
#024:	Past	115
#025:	Beast	141





NOW
THEN...

SINCE I'VE
GOT FOUR
OTHERS TO
TAKE CARE
OF AFTER
THIS...



I NEED
TO GET
STARTED.



SO
LET'S
DO
THIS.





ISN'T
THAT
KIND OF
SUDDEN?

HUH?

WHA-?



A-
AYA
?!

*What
are you
talking
about?*



C-
CAN'T
WE
TALK
ABOUT
THIS?



...?!



SHE'S
JUST A
NORMAL
PERSON,
LIKE
YOU.

SO SHE
HAS A
SHADOW
ON THIS
SIDE.

HUH?
WHAT
ARE YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?

DID
YOU GET
DRAWN
IN HERE,
TOO?!



I HOPE
YOUR
FRIENDS
WORK WITH
IT SO IT
DOESN'T
DISAPPEAR
ON YOU.



DAMN!



WELL,
YOUR
SHADOW
MIGHT BE
FADING
AWAY IN
THE OTHER
WORLD
RIGHT
NOW.



KE...

.....



I shall
surround
you with
lies.

Stretching into
further and
greater in an
unending
land...



DECEPTION
MIRROR!

I
MADE A
SHADOW
PROTEC-
TOR.



WH...
WHAT
DID
YOU
DO?





THEN
WHY
DIDN'T
YOU DO
THAT FOR
ME?



IT'S
IMPOSSIBLE
TO MAINTAIN
YOUR EXIS-
TENCE IN THE
WORLD OF
THE OPPOSITE
ELEMENT
WITHOUT ANY
PROTECTION.



WHAT
WAS
THAT
LONG
SIGH FOR?

....
....
....
...SIGH...

BUT IF
YOU CAN
PROTECT
AT LEAST
ONE OF
THEM, YOU
CAN BUY
SOME TIME.
LET'S THINK
OF A WAY
TO SAVE
THEM IN
THE MEAN-
WHILE.



WHY
YOU
....!

IT ALL
TURNED
OUT FOR
THE BEST,
RIGHT?

OH,
LET'S
PUT THE
PAST
BEHIND
US.



ANY-
WAY, IT'S
CLEAR THAT
KENSO WAS
DRAGGED
INTO THE
OTHER
WORLD BY
SOMEONE.

IT'S
POSSIBLE
THAT THE
INFORMATION
ABOUT THIS
PLACE WAS
A TR-



WHAT
?!

A
rather
quiet?!

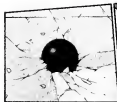
A
TRAP.











DON'T
AIM AT
SOMEBODY
WHO CAN'T
SEE YOU.
THAT'S NOT
FAIR!

HEY!
YOU'RE
FIGHTING
ME
NOW.

What
just
happened,
and
why?



BESIDES,
KILLING
SOMEBODY
WHEN
THEY DON'T
UNDERSTAND
A THING IS
SUCH A
WASTE.

I
WON'T
DO IT
NEXT
TIME.



HEE HEE..
SORRY,
I JUST
KIND
OF FELT
LIKE IT.

Well,
don't
find
this
fun!

IT'S
MORE
FUN
TO
KILL
YOU
ONE
BY
ONE.



HOW
DID HIS
PARENTS
RAISE
HIM?

WHAT A
MESS
UP KID.



MAN...

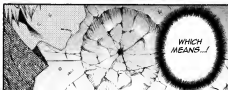


I DON'T
KNOW HOW
THEY WORK,
BUT IT LOOKS
LIKE THOSE
BALLS ARE
COMING FROM
SHADOW,
SO THERE'S
BASICALLY
AN INFINITE
AMOUNT
OF THEM.

ANYWAY,
THAT KID'S
WEAPONS
ARE
GONNA BE
A PAIN.











HE'S A
LONG-
RANGE,
WIDE-AREA
TYPE. HE'S
GOT A BIG
ADVANTAGE
AGAINST
A SUPER-
CLOSE-
RANGE
TYPE.

BUT IF
I CAN
GET IN
RANGE...



I'VE
GOT A
CHANCE!



FEH!

SO
THAT'S
HIS
IDEA.





60

HE'S
RUNNING
LIKE THE
WIMP HE
IS...



FOUND
YOU!

CLINK







HAH!

TIME
FOR A
SPANKING,
KIDDO!



BUT
KENGO'S
POPPLE-
BANGER
SEEMS
UNHARMED,
SO THE
SAME
SHOULD
BE TRUE
FOR
HIM.



I THINK
I'M HEARING
MORE EX-
PLOSIONS. IS
EVERYTHING
OKAY?

BUT THAT
DOESN'T
MEAN WE
CAN JUST
SIT HERE!



IT'S
THE OTHER
SIDE, SO I
COULDN'T
TELL YOU.





.....



UM,
WELL...

HEY!

CAN'T
WE GET
OVER
THESE
SOME-
HOW?



HE'S UP
AGAINST
SOMEBODY
WHO CAN
PULL OFF A
COMPLICAT-
ED TRAP
LIKE THIS.

ALL
HE CAN
DO IS
PUNCH
PEOPLE.
HE'S AT
A DISAD-
VANTAGE.



WHAT?
NOT
AT
ALL?

I
CANNOT
INTERFERE
WITH THE
SHADOW
WORLD
AT ALL.



I'M
SORRY.

I'M
AFRAID I
CANNOT
HELP YOU
WITH
THAT.



THAT'S
WHAT IT
MEANS TO
BE BAN-
ISHED...



OKAY,
THEN I'LL
GO.



OR
DO YOU
NOT THINK
I'M UP
TO IT?



TAKE
ME WITH
YOU!

BROTHER
KOH!

NO, I
DON'T
THINK THAT
AT ALL.
PLEASE
DO.

SOCHA
THEN.
♡



I JUST WANT TO KICK THE CRAP OUT OF HIM FOR FALLING FOR SUCH A STUPID TRAP.

NOPE, NOT REALLY.

HUH?
OH...
HMM.
I SEE.



HUH?
THERE
THERE

YEAH

YOU SURE DO LOVE KEN, DON'T YOU AKI?



BUT...

YOU'LL JUST GET LOST ON THE WAY THERE.

YOU CAN'T CROSS THE BARRIER YOUR FIRST TIME LIKE THIS.

BUT NO.



LEAVE IT TO YOUR BIG BROTHER!



I TOLD YOU, RIGHT? I'LL PROTECT ALL OF YOU.



TIME
TO HEAD
BACK-IT'S
BEEN A
WHILE.

**I'M
SORRY!**



OKAY...





UH... I
WON'T
...

WELL,
IF YOU
UNDERSTAND,
THEN I
GUESS IT'S
OKAY.

YEAH.



YOU
DIDN'T
REALLY
THINK I'D
SAY "I'M
SORRY"
DID YOU?

...JUST
KIDDING!



SO
COME
ON.
DON'T
CRY.



AH HA
HA HA/
MAN,
I CAN'T
BELIEVE
YOU FELL
FOR
THAT!



HOW
GULLIBLE
ARE
YOU?



IS
ANYONE
ACTUALLY
THAT
STUPID?





I'M GOING
TO SMACK
SOME SENSE
INTO YOU!



WHY DO
PEOPLE
ALWAYS
WANT TO
JUDGE
SOMEBODY
BASED ON
HOW THEY
LOOK?



HUH.

EVEN
I AM
STARTING
TO GET JUST
A LITTLE
PISSED OFF.



OHP

GET
PISSED
OFF IF
YOU
WANT.

BUT
DID YOU
FORGET
WHERE
YOU
ARE?





?!



THIS
IS THE
WORLD OF
SHADOW.

IF YOU
DON'T
HURRY
BACK...

WON'T THE
DARKNESS
SWALLOW
YOU UP?







HE
DISAP-
PEARED.

HE...



I'M
COUNT-
ING ON
YOU,
KOH!

COME
ON...



KENGO'S
ALREADY
STARTING
TO BE
EATEN
AWAY.

SLAP



#021: Buildup













THE
TRUTH
IS...

WH-

WHAT
IS
THIS
?!

HOWE-
RABI
ASKED
ME TO
ATTACK
YOU
GUYS

BUT
FOR SOME
REASON
HE SAID
TO LEAVE
YOU PER-
SONALLY
ALONE



WHAT?!

CAN'T
YOU JUST
TELL YOU'RE
THE WEAK-
EST OF ALL
OF THEM?





A
HAND
?!



DON'T
START
GIVING
KENGO
IDEAS,
WOULD
YOU?

HUH

IF YOU
DON'T
KNOW THE
REASON,
THEN THAT'S
FINE.





YOUR BIG
BROTHER
WILL SAVE
YOU NOW,
OKAY?

HEY.



YOU'RE
NOT
SERIOUSLY
TALKING LIKE
THAT RIGHT
NOW, ARE
YOU?



THIS
WASN'T
THE PLAN...
BUT WHAT-
EVER.

I WAS
GONNA
KILL YOU
ALL ANY-
WAY.

HMM...
AREN'T
YOU A
SCARY
LITTLE
KID?









IS
WAITING
REALLY
ALL WE
CAN
DO?



KOH



.....



.....

HE'LL
JUST DIS-
APPEAR IF
I LEAVE
HIM
THERE...

SO
NOW
I'LL
FIGHT
YOU.

IF
ONLY
YOU
COULD'VE
GOTTEN
TO HIM
SOONER!

AH HA
HA HA
HA!

WHAP?

HE
WON'T
DISAP-
PEAR.

HUH?

WHAT
ARE YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?

KEN...

WILL
NOT
DISAP-
PEAR.



A NORMAL
HUMAN CAN'T
EVEN MOVE
LIKE THAT...







HOW
CAN A
NORMAL
HUMAN TAKE
THIS MUCH
DARKNESS
AND STILL
MOVE?

WH-
WHAT
IS THIS
?!



WHAT
IS HE?!
TELL
ME!

COME
ON!

I NEED
TO GET
KEN BACK
NOW.

WHAP?

IT LOOKS
LIKE I'LL
HAVE TO
PUT OFF
KILLING
YOU UNTIL
NEXT TIME,
KID.



CAN'T
YOU
TELL?



I AM...

VERY,
VERY
UPSET
RIGHT
NOW.



WHEN
I DECIDE
TO KILL
SOMEBODY,
IT DOESN'T
MATTER
EVEN A LITTLE
WHETHER
THEY'RE A KID
OR NOT.

SORRY,
BUT I'M
NOT NICE
LIKE KEN.
NOT NICE
AT ALL.



IN
THAT
CASE...



IF YOU
DON'T
WANT TO
DIE...

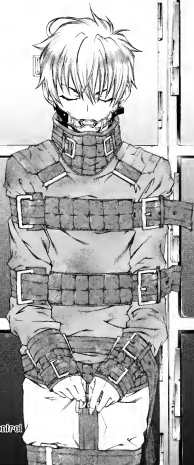
STAY
HERE
AND
SHUT
UP.





I
WOULD
BE THE
ONE
TO GET
HURT.

BUT IF
I HOLD
BACK...



was Out of Control





?!.....



THAT
THING ON
HIS ARM
CHANGED
SHAPE?

KEN'S
WEAPON
RESPONDS
TO ITS
WEARER'S
FIGHTING
SPIRIT AND
KILLING
SPIRIT.

SHIROSANE,
YOU SURE
GAVE HIM
SOMETHING
THAT'S
A PAIN.



DAMN!

ITS
POWER
CHANGES
DEPENDING
ON THE
USER'S
SPIRIT.

THE
FACT
THAT
HE'S
WEAR-
ING IT
NOW IS
A BIG
PROB-
LEM.





YOU
ALWAYS
HAVE
JUST
CHARGED
INTO
THINGS,
HAVEN'T
YOU?



BUT I
NEED TO
SUCK OUT
THE DARK-
NESS AND
GET YOU
BACK TO
YOUR OWN
WORLD. IF
I DON'T,
PEOPLE WILL
WORRY.

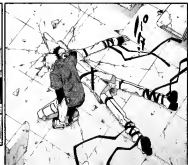
I'D
LOVE TO
SHOW
YOU
HOW TO
FIGHT..



I'LL
MAKE IT
QUICK.







YEEK!



WH-WHAT
THE HELL
HAPPENED?
HE WAS SO
WEAK JUST A
MINUTE AGO!





WHA-
?!

LET'S
PLAY
SOME
MORE!



THAT
WASN'T
VERY
NICE,
WAS
IT?



YOU
GUYS
WERE
JUST
BARELY
MIDDLE
SCHOOL
KIDS.

WHEN
WE MET...

IT'S
BEEN A
WHILE,
HASN'T IT,
KEN?





BUT I
STOPPED
YOU,
RIGHT?

BACK
THEN...

YOU
WERE
OUT OF
CONTROL,
TOO!



AND
WHEN
YOU'RE
ALL FILLED
UP WITH
DARKNESS,
YOU GO
OUT OF
CONTROL
LIKE
THIS.

ANYWAY, YOU'RE
DIFFERENT FROM
NORMAL PEOPLE.
YOU LET THE
DARKNESS IN
EASILY, AND YOU
CAN BUILD UP
A GOOD DEAL
OF IT.

WELL, I
DOUBT YOU
REMEMBER
IT AT THE
MOMENT

AND THEN A CERTAIN KING CAME ALONG AND REMOVED THEM. WHAT A PAIN.



THAT WAS ONE OF THE REASONS I PUT ALL THOSE SEALS ON YOU...

WHETHER YOU GO OUT OF CONTROL OR NOT, BUILDING UP THAT DARKNESS IN YOUR BODY PUTS A LOT OF STRESS ON IT.

BUT COMPLAINING ABOUT HIM WON'T HELP RIGHT NOW.

need to focus



HOW ABOUT WE END THIS...

AND GO HOME, KEN?











Ugh...



BLACK
BLOOD
?!



WH-
WHAT
IS HE
DOING?



Ugh!



IS HE...
SUCKING
OUT THE
DARKNESS?

OLD OLD

NO
WAY...



HAAAAA!

Ugh!

Ugh...





OKAY.

I
THINK
I GOT
ALL THE
DARK-
NESS.



I DON'T
KNOW
WHAT
JUST
HAP-
PENED
HERE...

BUT I
CAN'T
LET
YOU
GUYS
LEAVE!

TIME TO
GET OUT
OF HERE
BEFORE IT
BUILDS UP
AGAIN.



HMM...

HEY,
WAIT!



I CAN'T
JUST RUN
AWAY—
THAT
WOULD BE
LAME!

HMM...
DID YOU
MAYBE
NOT
HEAR
ME?

I SAID
I DIDN'T
HAVE TIME
TO PLAY
WITH YOU.

SHUT
UP!
SHUT
UP!



I'LL
KILL
YOU
FOR
REAL!



OH,
FINE.



WAIT.

THAT IS
ENOUGH.



WE'RE
LEAVING,
SHIKI.

LET'S
GO.

WELL,
WOULD
YOU
LOOK AT
THAT.



STAY
OUT OF
THIS,
SAWAKI!

WHAT
GIVES
YOU THE
RIGHT
...?

HOMU-
RABI'S
ORDERS.



THERE'S
SOMEONE
YOU DON'T
SEE EVERY
DAY.



HOMU-
RABI'S?!



SORRY,
BUT
YEAH.

I'M
AS HARD
TO KILL
AS A
COCK-
ROACH.

KOH...
YOU'RE
ALIVE?



HEY,
SAWAKI!

IT'S
BEEN A
WHILE!
HOW'VE
YA
BEEN?



WHY
WOULD HOMURABI,
OF ALL
PEOPLE...

MORE
IMPORTANT-
LY, WHAT'S
GOING
ON?



...CHANGE
HIS
ORDERS
NOW?



PLEASE
TELL ME
WHY?

WON'T
YOU



HEY,
SAWAKI.



WHY
WOULD
HOMURABI
CANCEL HIS
ORDER?



TELL
ME.



#023: Memories



COME ON.



.....



SAWAKI...
ANSWER
ME.



Ha

THERE
IS NO
REASON
I HAVE
TO TELL
YOU, IS
THERE?

BUT IT'S FINE. I'VE
PRETTY MUCH
FIGURED
IT OUT.

YOU'RE
AS BIG A
WIMP AS
EVER.

SO
TRUE!

THOUGHT
THAT
WOULD
BE YOUR
ANSWER.

I'VE
NEVER
REALLY
WANTED
YOU TO
LIKE ME.

SHUT
UP.

PRETTY

HATED
THAT
ABOUT
YOU.

I HAVE
ALWAYS
...



I NEED
TO GET
OUT OF
HERE FOR
KENSO'S
SAKE.

SO
YEAH—
BYE.



WELL, IT
DOESN'T
MATTER.
I DON'T
HAVE TIME
FOR YOU
RIGHT
NOW.



HUH?
WHAT
WAS
THAT?



SAY
HELLO TO
RYUKO'S
REINCAR-
NATION
FOR ME.



I
APOLO-
SIZE.

I'LL
BE
CARE-
FUL
FROM
NOW
ON.

SO THE
"BEAST"
IS AS
STRONG
AS EVER,
HUH?

DON'T
YOU EVEN
DARE
SAY HIS
NAME!



SAWAKI, WHAT'S YOUR DEAL WITH HIM?



OLO?

DOESN'T
LIKE
YOU?

YES.
IT'S
OLD
NEWS.



AND
KNOWING
ABOUT
IT WON'T
BRING ANY
BENEFITS
TO YOU.

YES...
IT'S
FROM A
LONG
TIME
AGO.

YOU
MADE YOUR
CONTRACT
AFTER IT
HAPPENED.
SO YOU
WOULDN'T
KNOW.



WELL,
WHAT-
EVER.

YOU
CAN
TELL ME
LATER.

Ugh...
COR-
RECT.

And...
BENEFITS
AREN'T
REALLY
THE
ISSUE
HERE.



NOW...





...60...

...NGO...

57% 57%







AKIRA



DO YOU
THINK AN
APOLOGY
WILL FIX
THINGS?



UH...

NOW
NOW!
KENGO
FEELS
BAD. YOU
SHOULD
LET HIM
OFF.

AND IF
YOU WERE
REALLY
WORRIED,
YOU
COULD
JUST SAY
SO!



HUH?
I'M NOT
WORRIED.
I JUST
WANTED TO
TELL HIM NOT
TO SCREW
AROUND.



THIS
WHOLE
THING IS
YOUR
FAULT!

IF YOU
THINK
WE'RE
HERE TO
PLAY,
THEN
DON'T
BOTCH
COMING
AGAIN.



HUH
?!

WHAT
?!

LIAR!
YOU
WERE SO
WORRIED
THAT
YOU WERE
CLINGING
TO SHIRO-
SANE AND
CRYING!



HEY,
AYA! IF
YOU KEEP
TELLING
LIES, I'LL
KILL YOU!
AND BY
YOU, I
MEAN KENSO.

WHAT?!

WHY
ME?



NOBODY
WOULD
CRY FOR
YOU!

IS
THAT
TRUE,
AKI-?

GWAAH!



NO, I
WAS
NOT!

YOU
GRABBED
SHIRO-
SANE'S
CLOTHES
AND WERE
TREMBLING,
SO I WAS
SURE YOU
WERE
CRYING...

OH
YEAH?
THAT'S
HOW I
REMEM-
BER IT.

TREMB-
?



YOU'RE
JUST SUCH
A LIAR THAT
I COULDN'T
HELP
MYSELF...

This is great! I just as I can
be with me much fun to have.

OH,
SORRY!

AYA!

SERIOUS-
LY, SHUT
UP!



~~~~~



YOU  
SHOULD  
JUST BE  
MORE  
HONEST,  
AKIRA-  
KUN.

BUT  
WHY  
ME?!



I'LL  
KILL  
YOU!

Gigah!

Shut  
up and  
die!



ABOUT  
KENGO  
...?









HE WAS  
ABSORBED  
BY  
DARKNESS  
AND DIDN'T  
DISAP-  
PEAR...  
THAT'S  
IMPOSSI-  
BLE!

AND HE  
WAS SO  
WEAK TO  
START...



ONCE THE  
DARKNESS  
TOOK HIM,  
HE TURNED  
INTO A  
DIFFERENT  
PERSON

WHAT  
IS  
THAT?



WHAT  
WAS  
THAT?



TO  
TELL THE  
TRUTH,  
KEN IS A  
FACTOR  
HOLDER.



YES.  
A DARK-  
NESS  
FACTOR.



FACTOR!  
YOU  
MEAN...



THAT'S  
BECAUSE  
I PUT A  
BUNCH  
OF SEALS  
ON HIM.



THAT  
CAN'T  
BE...

WHEN I  
LOOKED  
AT HIM,  
I DIDN'T  
SEE ANY  
FACTOR  
AT ALL!

YES.

ACTUALLY,  
THERE  
ARE A  
SURPRISING  
NUMBER  
OF PEOPLE  
LIKE THAT.

BUT THE  
FACTOR  
ISN'T THE  
ISSUE  
HERE.

SPECIAL  
NATURE  
...?

THE  
PROBLEM  
IS THAT HIS  
SPECIAL  
NATURE  
DRAWS  
THE DARK-  
NESS.

YOU CAN  
IDENTIFY  
THEM BY  
ALL THE  
"SUPER-  
NATURAL  
EVENTS"  
THAT OCCUR  
AROUND  
THEM.

I SEE!  
THAT'S WHY  
THERE ARE AN  
UNNATURAL  
NUMBER OF  
RIFTS IN THIS  
TOWN.

NOW  
YOU'VE  
GOT IT.

HIS  
POWER IS  
EXTREMELY  
STRONG.

BUT  
REMAINING  
IN THAT  
STATE WITH-  
OUT TRANS-  
FORMING  
IS NOT A  
GOOD IDEA.

IF HE  
HAS A  
DARKNESS  
FACTOR,  
THEN THAT  
EXPLAINS WHY  
HE DOESN'T  
CEASE TO  
EXIST EVEN  
AFTER  
BEING AB-  
SORBED.

BUT  
THAT  
MAKES  
HIM VERY  
DANGER-  
OUS.







HMM...  
SINCE HIS  
CONSCIOUS  
MIND WOULD  
CEASE TO EXIST,  
YOU COULD THINK  
OF HIM AS BEING  
LIKE AN OUT-  
OF-CONTROL  
KOKUCHI.



IT'S  
POSSIBLE  
THAT HIS  
MIND  
WOULD  
BE ASSIMI-  
LATED BY THE DARK-  
NESS.

"HIS MIND  
WOULD BE  
ASSIMILAT-  
ED?" WHAT  
DOES THAT  
MEAN?



WHAT  
PI?

THAT  
ASIDE, YOU  
KNOW ALL  
ABOUT THIS,  
AND YOU'VE  
JUST FOR-  
GOTTEN.

KENGO KOKUCHI



Red

LIKE A  
KOKU-  
CHI?

You're  
thinking of  
something  
which seems  
really good?

WHY  
DOES  
THAT NOT  
SEEM VERY  
THREATEN-  
ING?





WHAT  
WAS IT  
THAT  
REALLY  
HAP-  
PENED  
....?



THAT'S  
RIGHT.  
TWO  
YEARS  
AGO...



WHEN  
I FIRST  
MET YOU  
TWO...







#024: Past





ONE  
I DON'T  
THINK YOU  
CAN GET  
INTO.

WHAT?  
WHAT  
DOES  
THAT  
MEAN?

WHICH  
SCHOOL  
ARE YOU  
GOING TO,  
AKIRAP?

MAN,  
ENTRY  
EXAMS  
ARE SUCH  
A PAIN.



WHAT?  
YOU'RE  
GOING TO  
KIRIHA?

YOU MUST  
BE JUST  
BARELY  
ABOVE THE  
CUTOFF.

JUST  
WHAT I  
SAID,

YOU'RE  
NOT SMART  
ENOUGH TO  
GET INTO  
KIRIHA.



HOT?!  
WHA-?

THAT  
HAS  
NOTHING  
TO DO  
WITH  
IT!

BECAUSE  
I'M SO  
HOT.

AND YOU  
SKIP SCHOOL  
A LOT. HOW IS  
IT YOU ALWAYS  
GET ONE OF  
THE TOP FIVE  
BEST TEST  
SCORES IN THE  
SCHOOL?

HEY,  
WHY DO  
YOU LOOK  
SO VERY  
ANNOY-  
ED?

UGH.  
WHY?

THAT  
REALLY  
HURTS!

HEY,  
BOYS.

'CAUSE  
I DON'T  
WANT TO  
GO TO  
HIGH  
SCHOOL  
WITH  
YOU.

MAYBE  
I'LL TAKE  
THE EXAMS  
FOR KIRIHA,  
TOO.

HUH?  
UH,  
WELL...

WE'RE  
...

ARE YOU  
IN MIDDLE  
SCHOOL?

YOU  
TWO.









HEY!

WAIT,  
YOU  
BRATS!

NO,  
THEY'RE  
NOT  
HERE.

MAYBE  
THEY'RE  
OVER  
THERE?

WELL?  
DO YOU  
SEE  
THEM?

YEAH,  
FOR  
NOW.

THEY  
GONE?





HEY,  
AKIRA.

YEAHP

K...



HUH...

NOPE...  
NOT  
REALLY.



ISN'T IT  
KIND OF  
HARD TO  
BREATHE?



IS IT MY  
IMAGINA-  
TION?





HEY, WHAT'S GOING ON? NOW'S NOT THE TIME...

I DON'T UNDERSTAND...

IF YOU COLLAPSE, I'M LEAVING YOU HERE!

IT HURTS TO JUST BREATHE!



?!

OH, FINE. I'LL GO GET SOME- BODY...

WAIT HERE.



HUHP









IS THIS  
REALLY  
KENZO?

HE'S  
USUALLY SUCH  
A USELESS  
DUMBASS...



I'VE  
NEVER  
SEEN  
KENZO  
WITH A  
LOOK LIKE  
THAT  
ON HIS  
FACE!

THIS  
IS BAD...  
I'M  
GONNA  
FALL...!





OH  
MY.

IT  
FELT LIKE  
SOMETHING  
WAS GOING  
TO HAPPEN  
TODAY. I  
GUESS THIS  
WAS IT!



IT'S  
RARE TO  
FIND ANY-  
ONE LOST IN  
THIS AREA  
AT THIS  
HOUR.



HEY!  
THAT KID  
YOUR  
FRIEND?



AND  
ONE OF  
THEM WITH  
A SPECIAL  
NATURE AND  
A FACTOR

EX-  
TREMELY  
RARE.



WAIT...



NO  
WAY

RYU  
....?

.....





SORRY.



THERE  
ARE A  
LOT OF  
THINGS I  
WANT TO  
ASK YOU  
LATER.



YOU  
BASTARD!  
WHAT ARE  
YOU DOING  
TO KENGO!



TAKE  
A NAP.



SO  
UNTIL  
THIS IS  
DONE...



NOW  
THEN...



...?!

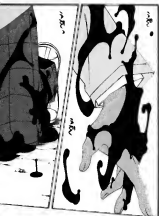
...  
...  
...

LET'S GET  
STARTED!









IMPOS-  
SIBLE...!





WHAT  
THE HECK  
IS THIS?



HOW  
MUCH  
DARKNESS  
DOES  
HE HAVE  
INSIDE  
HIM?





HMM...

UNLESS I  
TAKE THIS  
SERIOUS-  
LY...



I MAY  
BE THE  
ONE IN  
DANGER.

YEAH.

GRRAAA





#025 Beast



HMM...  
WHAT'S THE  
BEST WAY  
TO HANDLE  
THIS?

HE'S TOO  
FAST TO  
GRAB, AND  
I DON'T  
WANT TO  
ATTACK HIM  
AND HURT  
HIM...

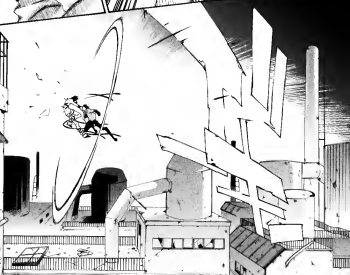
BUT  
I'M NOT  
STRONG  
ENOUGH TO  
DECISIVELY  
FIGHT  
HIM WHILE  
HOLDING  
BACK.

IF I  
WAS AS  
STRONG  
AS I'M  
SUP-  
POSED  
TO BE,  
THIS  
WOULD  
BE NO-  
THING!

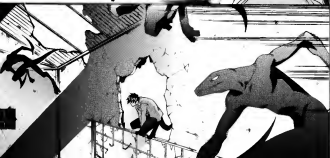
DAMN  
IT!





















HISS !!







I DON'T  
KNOW IF  
HE'S DRAW-  
ING THEM  
HERE OR  
WHAT! BUT  
THERE ARE  
A LOT OF  
THEM  
TODAY.



HISS!

I'D LIKE  
TO TAKE  
THEM ALL  
DOWN AT  
ONCE,  
BUT...



YOU'RE  
IN MY  
WAY!







I GUESS  
I DON'T  
HAVE A  
CHOICE.

BUT  
I CAN'T  
HOLD  
BACK  
IN THIS  
SITUATION.

I DON'T  
HAVE A  
MASTER  
RIGHT  
NOW,  
YOU  
SEE.

AND IF  
I USE UP  
ALL MY  
STORED  
POWER,  
I'LL HAVE  
A PROBLEM.

YOU GO  
BACK TO  
NORMAL,  
OR I DIS-  
APPEAR.



LET'S  
SEE  
WHAT  
HAPPENS  
FIRST...







IT'S  
TOO  
SOON  
FOR  
YOU.



...TO  
DISAP-  
PEAR.



AH!









## TALK, YO

Volume 6 is out! It's me, Kaili. (Strange greeting.) I was told that it would be beautiful if I could get a volume out just before the anime started airing in Japan, and damned if I didn't pull it off! I can't wait for the anime. (Heh!)

Oh yeah. Actually, I totally forgot to mention this in volume 4, but that story Kengo told in volume 1 chapter 4? That really happened. (Heh!) The first one—about falling into the sea—was my little brother. Kengo was wearing trunks, but my brother was going full monty. (Hā ha ha ha!) That was great. I still have the video, and it's hysterical. The second incident was when I was in first grade, and it was my sister who hit her butt. I hit my head on the side glass. There was some bleeding, but it was still hilarious. And the last one—about falling into a rice field—that was none other than me. Since we'd come by car, I wanted to cry when they threw me in the cardboard box so I wouldn't mess up the interior. Actually, I did cry. (Heh!) How old was I then? Seven or eight, I think... (Useless information.) That's all! Hope you enjoyed this look behind the scenes!

Praying I can see you in volume 6...

Separation ♣ Shy...

## THANKS

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